Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An instant messaging method comprising the steps of:

displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;

selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list in the graphical user interface;

designating at least one action associated with the group via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group in response to a state change;

automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and

automatically executing said designated action associated with said group for said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session between said client and said at least one subscriber.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

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4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting, said designating, said associating, said detecting, and said executing steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime (TM) type client.

6-7.   (Cancelled).

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said state change is a change from an inactive state to an active state.

9.   (Cancelled).

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one action further comprises presenting within a graphical user interface a list of said subscribers in said group and within said graphical user interface, visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber from other subscribers in said list.

11-25. (Cancelled).

26.   (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber from other subscribers comprises distinguishing based upon at least one among a font color, a font type, a background color, and an icon type.

27.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inactive state comprises at least one among an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, an away-from-desk state, an out-of-office state, an inactive state resulting from an inactive state change, and a state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber.

28.   (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the inactive state resulting from an inactive state change comprises a change from a current inactive state to a different inactive state.

29.   (New) An instant messaging method comprising the steps of:
       displaying a user selectable list of subscribers of an instant messaging service;
       selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list, wherein the inactive state comprises at least one among an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, an away-from-desk state, an out-of-office state, an inactive state resulting from an inactive state change, and a state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber;
       designating at least one action associated with the group, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group in response to a state change;
       automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and
       automatically executing said designated action associated with said group for said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

30.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session between said client and said at

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least one subscriber.

31.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

32.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said selecting, said designating, said associating, said detecting, and said executing steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime (TM) type client.

34.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said state change is a change from an inactive state to an active state.

35.   (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said at least one action further comprises presenting within a graphical user interface a list of said subscribers in said group and within said graphical user interface, visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber from other subscribers in said list.

36.   (New) The method of Claim 35, wherein visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber from other subscribers comprises distinguishing based upon at least one among a font color, a font type, a background color, and an icon type.

37.   (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein the inactive state resulting from an inactive state change comprises a change from a current inactive state to a different inactive state.